



May News 2026

Dear Members

Hard copies of this Newsletter can be read on the U3A Board in the Library or pick up a copy at Alsager Civic on a Monday morning.

We have just come to the end of two terms of group activities for another year. Can I personally thank you all for your continued support throughout this period. The last Monday morning Hub at Alsager Civic will take place on **Monday 18th May**. Will you please ensure that you have paid any outstanding trip monies by this date. Talk Time will also complete its programme on this day and I must thank Geoff Reader for his time and energy in producing a very diverse set of talks.

All group leaders must be thanked for their time and effort throughout the past two terms, and I wish you all a good rest and hopefully we will see you all return from Monday, 7th September. Some groups, however, run throughout the Summer.

I know how much joy and camaraderie comes from members attending our varied Day Trips & Holiday programme. Gill Dalton, Margaret Mortimore and Alison Bagnall deserve all our thanks for their time and effort throughout the year.

Your Committee has worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure the smooth running of our U3A. I thank them personally at every Committee Meeting for their continued dedication.

**Don't forget : There will be no Monday morning gatherings on
4th May – Bank Holiday : 25th May – Bank Holiday.**

TRAVEL

Gill Dalton has been doing an amazing job of organising day trips and holidays for quite a number of years now. An appeal for her successor is again being made. Do you feel that you could take over from Gill when she retires as Travel Co-Ordinator in October? If so, please come into Alsager Civic on a Monday morning and speak with Gill, who will provide all the necessary training.

****Day Trips have been organised up to and including September. Without a replacement for Gill, we are sorry to say that September will see our last day trip****



We need your HELP
NO TRAVEL CO-ORDINATOR - NO DAY TRIPS / HOLIDAYS



A few Fun Facts about May

The name “May” is believed to come from the Greek goddess Maia, who was associated with spring and growth.

In Old English, May was called “Thrimilce,” meaning “month of three milkings” due to the abundance of grass for cows.

The tradition of dancing around the Maypole has Germanic pagan origins and became popular throughout medieval Europe, not just England.

Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, was born on May 12, 1820, in Florence, Italy

On May 1, 1931, the Empire State Building was officially opened in New York City.

In Old English superstition, it was considered unlucky to buy a broom in May.

GROUPS

Group Leaders – Money Collection

There will be an opportunity for Group Leaders to pay money in during June. This will be at Alsager Library on **Monday 22nd June** from 10.00am until 11.30.



The U3A Light Orchestra

will perform a **Spring Concert** of small and large screen music on
31st May : 4pm to 6pm at **Wesley Place Methodist Church**
30 Lawton Road, Alsager, ST7 2RU

Tickets will cost £10. Proceeds will be split equally between Wesley Place Church and Cancer Research.

Wesley Place have confirmed that the Church can seat up to 150+ people. Pews provide all the seating and some people may wish to bring a cushion to sit on.

The Wesley Place fundraising team will provide refreshments - teas and coffee - in the main hall.

Parking at the Church is very limited so visitors are encouraged to use the Asda car park.

Tickets will be available from 13th April 2026 and can be purchased from the Civic Centre on Monday mornings. They will also be available at the door of the event depending on pre sales.

Embroidery



The embroidery group, who displayed their beautiful work of Bargello (or Florentine work) in last Month's Newsletter, have vacancies for a couple of new members. Please contact Lynn Simpson (Group Leader) on 07421817738 or e-mail her on lynnfsimpson@yahoo.com

The History of Art

A suggestion for a new Group "The History of Art" has been put forward. Anyone who is interested in leading this group should contact Jean Steer (Groups Co-Ordinator) on 07811411169 or e-mail her on jeanasteer@btinternet.com who will then look at the feasibility of this type of Group, which will meet on a monthly basis. We have a viable number of interested people for a group to run.

Mah Jong

Mah Jong can restart if we get enough people interested. Please contact Jean Steer (Groups Co-Ordinator) on 07811411169 or e-mail her on jeanasteer@btinternet.com to discuss further

Table Tennis 2

Table Tennis 2 meets at the 13 Club, Alsager on a Monday afternoon @ 1.45pm. They presently have 4 spaces available from week commencing Monday 4th May. The term ends on 31st August and the cost is £25. For further details please contact Pat Berrisford on 07773222629

**Is your Group short of numbers
If so, please let our Secretary know by e-mailing
secretary@alsageru3a.org.uk
Or would you like to display your work in
future Newsletters**

TRAVEL

Please note that outings are available only to members of Alsager & District U3A

Forthcoming Day Trips



Wednesday, 20th May, 2026 : Bodnant Gardens and The Tweedmill Shopping Outlet. This has been arranged to, hopefully, see the Laburnum Arch at it's best. We will leave Bodnant early afternoon for a visit to the Tweedmill Shopping Outlet for some retail therapy.

Food is available at both venues.

Price £20 National Trust Members :: £37 Non-National Trust Members. Depart 9.00am

Thursday, 11th June, 2026 : Belvoir Castle, near Grantham. Home to John Manners, 11th Duke of Rutland and his wife. This is a "free-flow" visit. Price £45 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits on arrival. Depart 9.00am

Wednesday, 15th July, 2026 : Stratford-upon-Avon. Today you can "do as you like, visiting the many attractions Stratford has to offer, followed in the afternoon by a 90 minute cruise on the River Avon.

Price £40. Depart 9.00am – Waitlist

Wednesday, 12th August, 2026 : Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival. Enjoy a pleasant drive to the pretty village of Kettlewell in the Yorkshire Dales before wandering around to see the many scarecrows on show. An army of home-bakers make and serve delicious homemade cakes, soup, fresh cut sandwiches, tea and coffees in the Village Hall. There are also a number of pubs, a deli and a tea room.

Price £20. Depart 9.00am

Wednesday, 30th September, 2026 : Cole Porter's High Society at the Lowry Theatre. Starring Helen George (Call The Midwife).

Enjoy songs like "True Love" and "Who Wants to be a Millionaire".

Price £71 per person. Depart 12.00noon – **Waitlist**

Members can still book places on our holiday



Summertime Norwegian Fjords

30th July 2026 – 9 days Cruise on Fred. Olsen's Bolette – sailing from Liverpool

Uncover the beauty of Norway !

If you have an interest in any of the above, please come into Alsager Civic on a Monday morning and speak with Gill, Margaret or Alison.

TALK TIME

MAY 2026 DETAILS

04 May	NO MEETING – EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY
11 May	Margaret Holbrook <i>English Fairy Tales : Looking at the origins of them</i>
18 May	Dr Karen Castle <i>How I ended up in Prison (Prison Hospital Officer)</i>
25 May	NO MEETING – SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

2026 Talk Time Autumn

The full schedule of next term's speakers will be available soon
DON'T FORGET – WE WOULD PREFER CARD PAYMENTS THAN CASH

Do you fancy a bit of a Quiz



Round 1b – General Knowledge - Answers

10. Who directed the *Jurassic Park* movies? **Steven Spielberg**
11. What is the smallest country in the world by area? **Vatican City**
12. How many colours are there in a rainbow? **Seven**
14. What is the national flower of Japan? **Cherry blossom**
15. Who was the first man to walk on the moon? **Neil Armstrong**
16. Which organ in the human body is responsible for pumping blood? **Heart**
17. What is the capital city of Canada? **Ottawa**
18. Which country won the FIFA World Cup in 2018? **France**
19. What is the chemical formula for water? **H₂O**
20. What is the fastest land animal? **Cheetah**

Round 2a – History and Geography – Answers next month

21. Who was the first President of the United States?
22. In which year did World War II end?
23. What is the longest river in the world?
24. Which country is the Eiffel Tower located in?
25. What was the name of the ship Charles Darwin sailed on?
26. Who was the first female Prime Minister of the UK?
27. What is the capital city of Egypt?
28. Who discovered penicillin?
29. What is the largest desert in the world?
30. In which country is the Great Wall located?

Our membership magazine ❁ Spring u3a matters digital edition ❁

u3a matters is the membership magazine of the u3a movement. It is packed with stories about members and u3a activities, plus celebrity interviews and features on technology, recipes, travel, competitions, and a lively and popular letters section.

A screen reader–friendly version is available for every issue. Simply go to the National u3a Website, click on “what we do” at the top of the page and go down to “u3a Matters Magazine” and follow the instructions to read highlights from the issue.



Inside the latest issue - Spring 2026

In this shortened version of the latest edition, discover u3a members' treasured vinyl collections and learn why dance is so good for the mind, body and soul. There's lots more to put a spring in your step – from boosting your wellbeing to gardening for the senses and nutritious power bowl salads that are perfect for the new season. There's also a nationwide round-up of ancient walks and woodland trails to follow, members' fascinating life stories, and all the latest news, events and activities from across the movement.

Regards – David Gaston (Chair)